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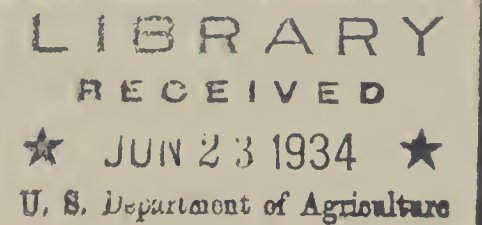
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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

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A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant-Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations, Wednesday, June 13, 1934.

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Hello folks: Today I propose to talk very seriously about a subject that is of extreme importance to you folks who live in the area that has been suffering from drought. I refer to the matter of your vegetable gardens and the production of fresh food for use during the remainder of the summer and for winter storage. You have all experienced that comfortable feeling that comes from the realization that you could go out to the garden and the poultry yard and get the makings of a good Sunday dinner, or to your storage cellar and bring out stored or canned fruits and vegetables in plenty for any occasion or emergency.

I dare say that the drought situation has had a lot of you really worried about your food supply, but I understand there has been fair to good rains over a considerable part of the drought stricken area and so now it may be possible to have some pretty fair late summer and fall gardens. It is now too late in most sections for planting the so-called early crops like peas, radishes and lettuce. Perhaps some of these can be grown as fall crops. It is just the time in many sections for planting late potatoes and in the southernmost parts of the drought area sweet potatoes may still be planted.

Here is a list of some of the vegetables that may be planted in many parts of the country during June or early July with a fair prospect of making satisfactory crops. First I will mention snap beans, for you can go on planting snap beans for some time just so you have about 60 days before the first frosts in the fall to mature them. Some varieties like Early Bountiful will often mature in 54 or 55 days after planting. I would suggest that you make at least two plantings of snap beans, one now and another ten days or two weeks later.

In case you can get any tomato plants I think I would risk a rather large planting, say 75 or 100 plants, and I would get them planted just as soon as possible. If you want to see your tomato plants get a hump on themselves just work a shovelful of fairly well rotted stable manure into a sort of hill or space where you set each plant, then after you set your plants pour about a half bucket of water around each one and watch them grow. I would recommend the Marglobe variety but if you can not get the plants of Marglobe take any good late variety like Stone.

So much for the tomatoes, now how about a patch of late sweet corn for roasting ears and for drying or canning. You know I like that good old dried sweet corn, provided of course it is dried under sanitary condition. I believe that many of you can grow good sweet corn during the remainder of the season, that is provided of course we get enough moisture. Country Gentleman and Stowell's Evergreen are the leading late varieties

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although I know of some gardeners who stick to Golden Bantam first, last and always. I find the Stowell's Evergreen the surest cropper and most dependable for late planting and by late planting I mean along about the 20th of June in most localities.

Late cabbage is one of our most dependable green food crops and so I would advise setting 100 to 300 plants of one of the standard late varieties such as All Season, Late Flat Dutch, or Danish Ball Head. Now cabbage is a hungry sort of plant and you need not be afraid of making the soil too rich for it. Of course I realize that it may be difficult to secure cabbage plants and it is now plenty late for sowing the seed.

There will be plenty of time for planting turnips and I believe that in case you now have good moisture in your gardens it will pay to sow some beets and carrots. Later you can plant lettuce and spinach for fall use. You southern folks should not neglect your collards and later on plant a good bed of kale.

You folks in the central and eastern drought area may well take a lesson from your brothers who live out in the Great Plains region where there is never what you would consider a plentiful supply of moisture in the soil. These dry land gardeners have learned that they must never crowd their plants, that the rows must be farther apart and the hills of corn or the tomato plants must be given more space in the rows so that they will have a much larger soil area to draw upon for moisture.

Keeping the surface soil loose and the under soil rather compact will also aid in the conservation of moisture and under no circumstances should any weeds be allowed to grow because weeds are the greatest robbers when it comes to soil moisture. In some cases the soil moisture may be conserved by mulching the surface with partially rotted straw or better still with fine manure.

In a few cases it may be possible to irrigate your gardens and I believe that on the whole the best results will be obtained by running the water in little furrows alongside the rows of plants, or make a sort of pocket alongside each tomato plant or hill of corn and pour the water into it and allow it to settle into the soil. Whatever you do, don't sprinkle your gardens unless you are prepared to give the soil a good watering. Come on folks, don't give up but let's see to it that we have good late summer and fall gardens and plenty to eat.